

II. DETAILED JUSTIFICATION FOR FY 2006-07 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

A. Agency Section/Code/Name:

B. Priority No. __4__ of __4__

C. (1) Title:

Public Library Construction Grants

(2) Summary Description:

To provide competitive grant seed money allowing public libraries to begin much needed construction and renovation projects.

(3) Strategic Goal/Action Plan (*if applicable*):

Strategic Goal 3 (Serve as an advocate for the contributions that libraries make to education and economic development in South Carolina) / In coordination with the Association of Public Library Administrators (APLA), the agency proposes to create a competitive grant process based on greatest need for library construction and renovation projects.

D. Budget Program Number and Name: Library Development / 35 01 00 00

E. Agency Activity Number and Name: 875/ Pass Through

F. Detailed Justification for Funding

(1) Justification for Funding Increase:

South Carolina public library buildings are aging, in need of repair and renovation, and in a number of communities new construction is needed to meet growing demands. To meet this growing need, the South Carolina State Library, in coordination with the Association of Public Library Administrators, proposes a new program to provide “seed money” grants for architectural services, artist renderings, acquisition of land, and both new and renovation construction projects, furnishings, and interior design fees. The grants provided would require matching funds from the county.

South Carolina's public libraries are located throughout the state with a system of 46 county or regional library headquarters, 140 branches, and 35 bookmobiles. Many buildings were constructed during the 1950s-1980s, when federal funds were available nationwide for library construction. These buildings are now 25-50 years old, have not been well maintained, may not meet accessibility guidelines, and do not meet the space requirements of local communities.

The State Library has studied statistical data and census projections, and correlated this information with current construction cost estimates and with accepted formulae utilized by library professionals and architects. This data shows the following requirements to meet projected demand by 2025:

Estimated Population of SC, 2025	5,145,870
Minimum Existing Square Footage needs	5,145,870
Existing square footage (as reported in FY03 data)	2,147,476
Deficit square footage needs	2,998,394
Total new construction costs @\$150/sq. ft.	\$771,880,500
Total addition construction costs @\$150/sq. ft.	\$449,759,100
Total of all construction needs	\$1,221,639,600

[See attached Table for all figures and sources of data.]

The majority of South Carolina's public libraries are in small, rural communities who have suffered tremendous financial downturns during just the past five years. These communities need their public libraries now, more than ever, to provide resources for preschool learning and literacy, adult education, job training and job searching, educational support for local public and home schools, and research databases.

The federal government, through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), funded library construction projects for over 40 years (1956-1997). These Library Services Construction Act (LSCA) funds were appropriated through state libraries for local projects, and were begun at a time when the federal government realized that the Carnegie library buildings – many built at the turn of the century – were crumbling or inaccessible. However, in 1997 LSCA became LSTA (Library Services Technology Act) as the federal government recognized that public libraries were struggling to deal with providing Internet access, public computing, and library automation systems. Funds for library construction projects were sacrificed to meet the changing needs of libraries and library users.

In just the past year, state support for public libraries has been improved to return to the level of support provided in FY 2001. During the four years of decreasing support, libraries were forced to use monies intended for building maintenance, repair, or improvement to maintain levels of service. In many cases, levels of service were not able to be maintained, but had to be reduced.

Now that state aid has been returned to the FY01 level, and support for operations, services and programs has been addressed, the condition of library buildings has become paramount. Current needs exceed \$1.2 billion. In addition, the figures above are estimated at today's construction costs, while much of the actual construction will occur at future, higher costs. The above figures also do NOT include architectural fees, site costs, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, or any contingency fees.

The \$5 million requested to begin a construction grant program represents LESS THAN one-half of one percent (.05 %) of the estimated need of South Carolina's public libraries.

(2)

FY 2006-07 Cost Estimates:	State Non-Recurring Funds	State Recurring Funds	Federal	Other	Total
Personnel:					
(a) Number of FTEs*					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0
Program/Case Services					\$ 0
Pass-Through Funds		5,000,000			\$5,000,000
Other Operating Expenses					\$ 0
Total	\$ 0	\$5,000,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$5,000,000

** If new FTEs are needed, please complete Section F (Detailed Justification for FTEs) below.*

(3) Base Appropriation:

State	\$ 8,079,638
Federal	\$ 620,000
Other	\$ 100,000

(4) Is this priority associated with a Capital Budget Priority? N/A If so, state Capital Budget Priority Number and Project Name: _____.

G. Detailed Justification for FTEs

(1) Justification for New FTEs

(a) Justification: N/A

(b) Future Impact on Operating Expenses or Facility Requirements: N/A

(2) Position Details:

	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
Position Title:					
(a) Number of FTEs					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0

	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
Position Title:					
(a) Number of FTEs					0.00
(b) Salary					\$ 0
(c) Fringe Benefits					\$ 0

(3) FTEs in Program Area per FY 2005-06 Appropriation Act:

State	____3____
Federal	____3____
Other	____0____

Agency-wide Vacant FTEs as of August 20, 2005: ____6____

% Vacant ____12____%

H. Other Comments: